

Minorities given a voice though election

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Last Thursday at Perry High School, minority students had the opportunity to vote for a representative to be sent to the Iowa Minority Congress. The congress is made up of 100 students from 22 counties.

Perry High School currently has 556 students, with 162 considered a member of a minority.

Students were allowed to vote for one student to represent Perry. Seven students took the opportunity to run for office: Adolfo Carabajal, Karen Posada, Yandi Barco, Stephanie Gonzalez, Yeymi Tobar and Daisy Diaz. They campaigned all week, making posters and giving speeches to students, during school and after. One poster read, "Si Se Puede," meaning "We can do it," in Spanish.

Armando Villareal, administrator for the Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs, said he expected a 90 percent turnout of Perry High School students, compared to only a 75 percent turnout the previous week at South Tama High School.

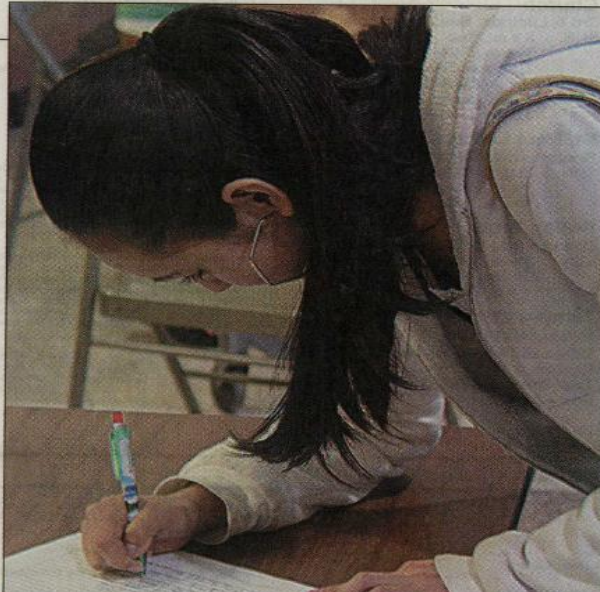
"I am very happy to see the next generation of Latino Americans being so excited to vote for a cause," said Jose DeDios, a senior at Perry.

The winner of the election was announced on Friday. Adolfo Carabajal, a junior, was elected to represent Perry at the congress. Yeymi Tobar was selected as the alternate in case Adolfo can not perform his duties.

"I wanted to give a voice to students ideas so we can realize the American Dream," says Adolfo. "They care about social problems and want to show they care by voting in this election."

Julie Walstrom, an ESL teacher at Perry, was excited to see minority students respond to the election in such a positive manner. "It is one of the most positive movements I have seen for Latino Students in Perry," she commented. "Students made speeches and lots of students showed up, showing me that they really care about their future and the future of America."

Adolfo will meet with other elected representatives this summer to learn about government and politics in

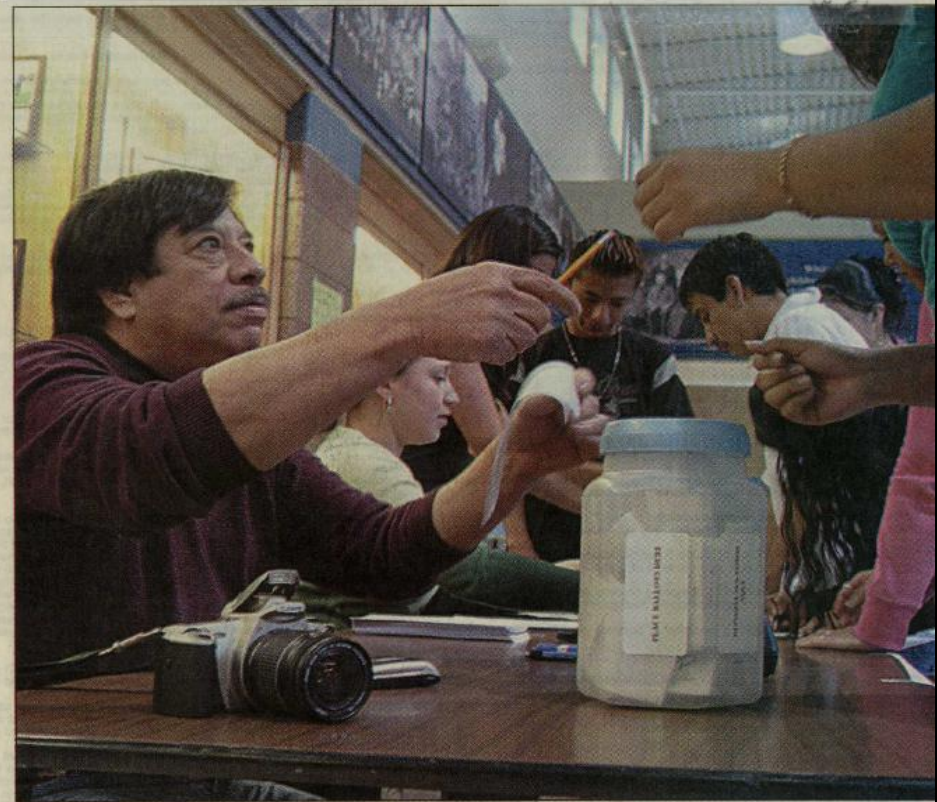


zens of Iowa.

Iowa is expected to grow one percent by the year 2030, while the Latino population is expected to grow 27 percent, making it the largest growing section of Iowa's population.

Villareal sees very bright things in the future of Iowa's young minorities "If these students start seeing what legislative power can do for them, they will start taking pride in their country and start to make positive change for future generations of America," he said.

Telital Staff Photos
Elections for Perry High School's representative to the Iowa Minority Congress were held on Friday. Students cast their ballot and turned them in to Armando Villareal (below), administrator for the Iowa Commission of Latino



workshops sponsored by YCPP (Youth Civic Participation Project). In the fall these students will meet in Des Moines as a whole to discuss possible legislation. The group will then select three bills to propose to the Iowa legislature to be passed as real bills affecting all citi-

he Perry Chief, April 28/06.